THE INFINITY GAUNTLET
SECRET WARS
MARVEL
003
DUSTIN WEAVER
GERRY DUGGAN
DUSTIN WEAVER

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VARIANT EDITION
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SECRET WARS
MARVEL

THE INFINITY STONES ARE A POWER BEYOND COMPARE.
THE SINGULAR DEVICE THAT CAN HOLD ALL THE STONES IS CALLED

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED! THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT. NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS BATTLEWORLD: A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST. MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM! EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

A DANGEROUS COLONY OF INTERGALACTIC, BLOODTHIRSTY BUGS HAS SWARMED ALL OVER BATTLEWORLD.

A YOUNG GIRL NAMED ANWEN AND HER FAMILY WERE ON THE RUN FROM THEM, UNTIL HER MOTHER, A LONG-LOST NOVA, RETURNED AND DEPUTIZED THEM ALL AS MEMBERS OF THE INTERGALACTIC PEACEKEEPING FORCE. NOW, THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR THE INFINITY STONES IN THE HOPES USING THEIR COMBINED POWER TO REPEL THE BUGS.

STAR-LORD AND GAMORA, A PAIR OF THIEVES, FOUND A STONE OF THEIR OWN IN A BUG-RAVAGED NOVA BASE, AS WELL.

QUILL AND GAMORA ARE THE LEAST OF THE FAMILY'S WORRIES, THOUGH. THANOS HIMSELF HAS ONE OF THE STONES – THE TIME STONE. EVERY TIME HE FAILS TO COLLECT THE REST OF THE STONES, HE USES ITS POWER TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO TRY AGAIN.

STORY:
DUSTIN WEAVER & GERRY DUGGAN

ARTIST:
DUSTIN WEAVER

SCRIPT:
GERRY DUGGAN

COLOR ARTIST:
RAIN BEREDO

LETTERER:
COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE

COVER ARTIST:
DUSTIN WEAVER

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS:
SIMONE BIANCH & DAVID CURIEL

PRODUCTION DESIGNER:
IDETTE WINECOOR

ASSISTANT EDITOR:
DEVIN LEWIS

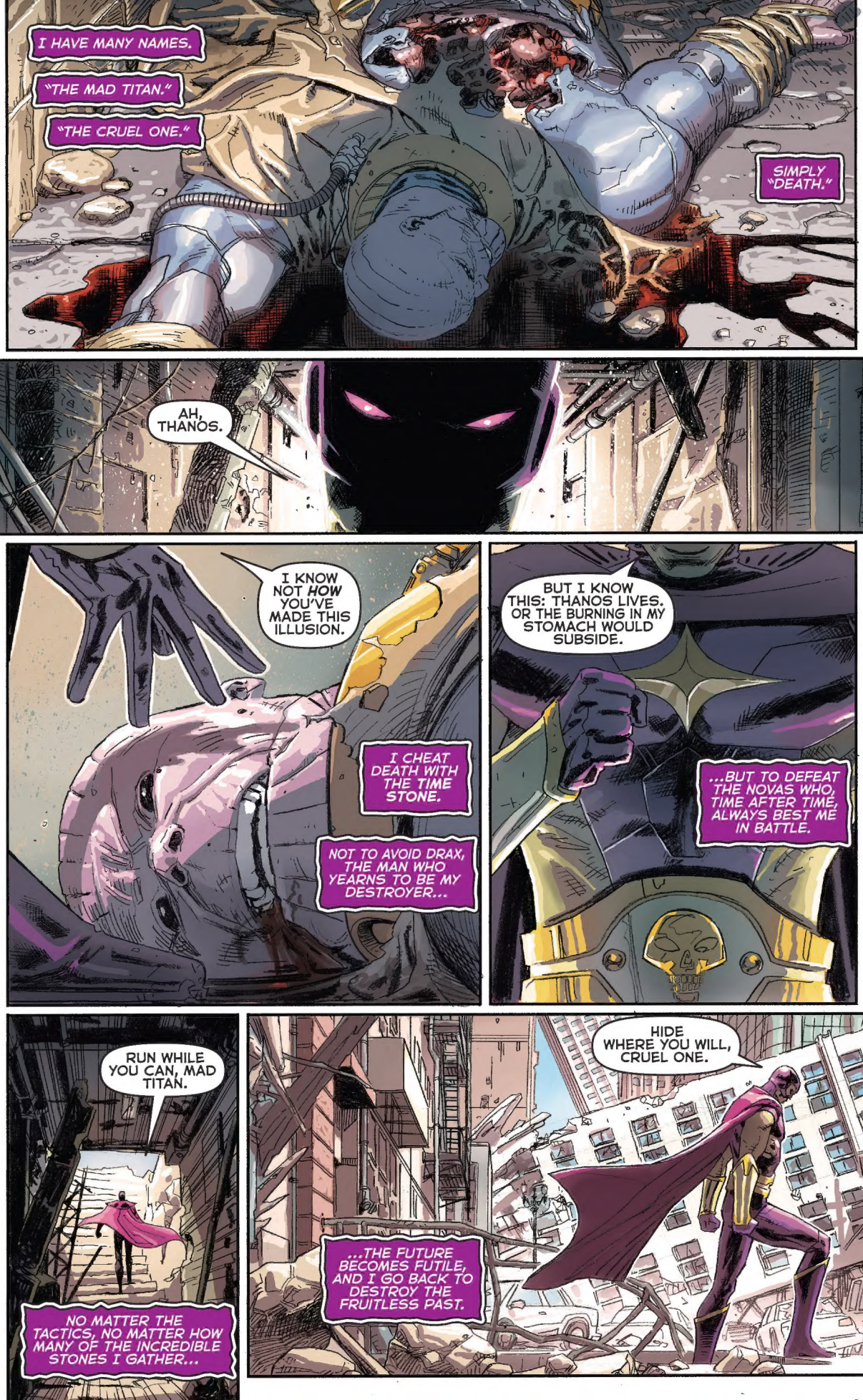
EDITOR:
NICK LOWE

EDITOR IN CHIEF:
AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER:
JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER:
DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:
ALAN FINE


I HAVE MANY NAMES.
"THE MAD TITAN."
"THE CRUEL ONE."
SIMPLY "DEATH."
AH, THANOS.
I KNOW NOT *HOW* YOU'VE MADE THIS ILLUSION.
I CHEAT DEATH WITH THE TIME STONE.
NOT TO AVOID DRAX, THE MAN WHO YEARNS TO BE MY DESTROYER...
BUT I KNOW THIS: THANOS LIVES. OR THE BURNING IN MY STOMACH WOULD SUBSIDE.
...BUT TO DEFEAT THE NOVAS WHO, TIME AFTER TIME, ALWAYS BEST ME IN BATTLE.
RUN WHILE YOU CAN, MAD TITAN.
NO MATTER THE TACTICS, NO MATTER HOW MANY OF THE INCREDIBLE STONES I GATHER...
HIDE WHERE YOU WILL, CRUEL ONE.
...THE FUTURE BECOMES FUTILE, AND I GO BACK TO DESTROY THE FRUITLESS PAST.

I WILL GRIND YOUR BONES TO DUST.

DRAX WILL BE *YOUR* DEATH. *DRAX* WILL BE YOUR *DESTROYER.*

SO PERHAPS INSTEAD OF TACTICS AND BATTLE... I WILL TRY SOMETHING ELSE.

THE TIME STONE DELIVERS ME TO THE PAST...

...BEFORE THIS FAMILY BECAME NOVAS.

LET'S GO. IT'S GONNA BE DARK SOON.

BEFORE THEY KNOW TO FEAR ME.

EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, KIDDO?

THERE'S SOMEONE UP THERE, WATCHING US.

LET'S KEEP MOVING, BEFORE HE DOES SOMETHING OTHER THAN *WATCH.*

...I KNOW, BUT YOU KNOW WE CAN'T RISK A FIRE.

NOT AFTER THE LAST TIME.

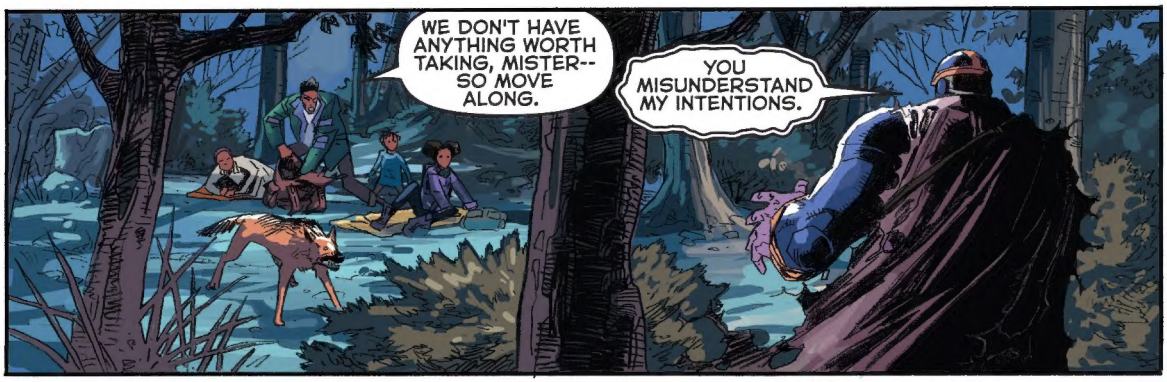
WILL YOU TELL US ABOUT MOMMY AGAIN?

OF COURSE I WILL, FAYNE.

UH, DAD? IT'S THE GUY I SAW FOLLOWING US!

GRRRRRRR

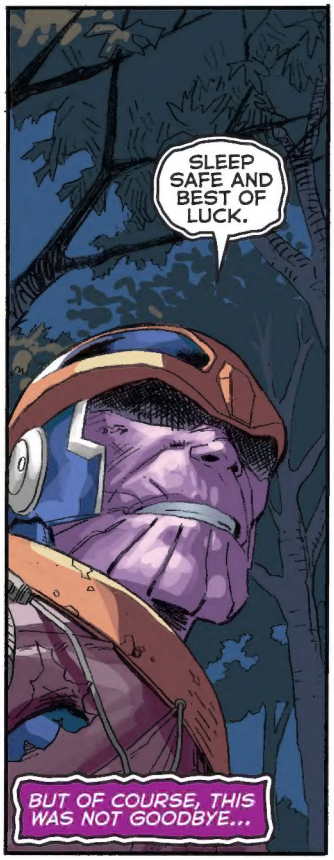
ALL IN GOOD TIME, GIRL.


WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING WORTH TAKING, MISTER-- SO MOVE ALONG.
YOU MISUNDERSTAND MY INTENTIONS.

I'M HERE TO *SHARE*, NOT TAKE.
MY HUNT YIELDED MORE THAN MY FILL.
YOU ALL LOOK HUNGRY.
THE BILE RISES IN MY THROAT.

WE DON'T NEED CHARITY.

THANKS, MISTER.

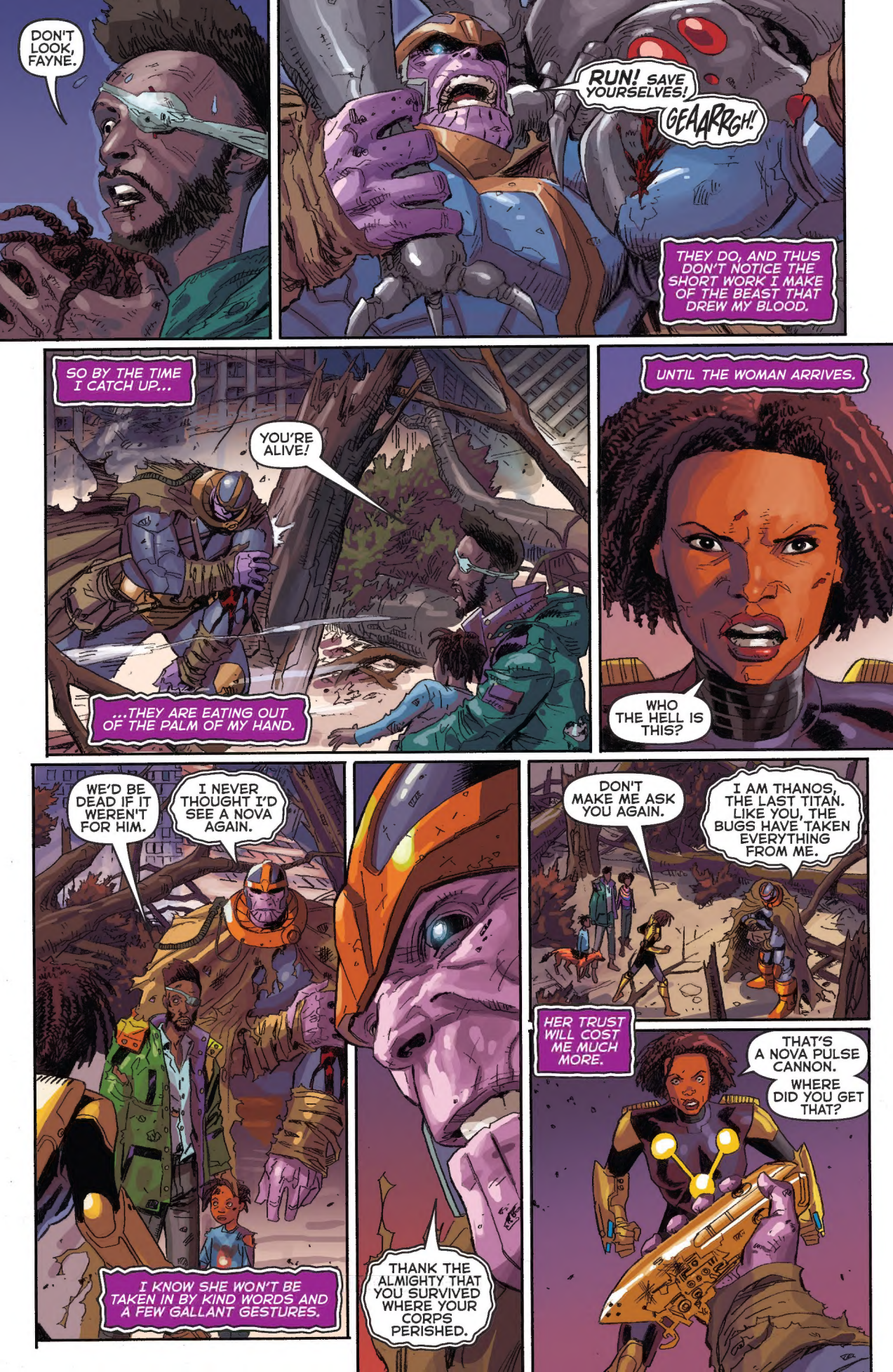

SLEEP SAFE AND BEST OF LUCK.
BUT OF COURSE, THIS WAS NOT GOODBYE...

AUUGH!
OOF!
I HAD FILLED THEIR BELLIES.

FAYNE!
UGGH...
I HAD BEGUN TO EARN THEIR TRUST.

COME ON, ZIGZAG!
THEN THE WAVE CRASHED DOWN ON THEM.

WE'VE GOTTA MOVE FAST!
FAMILY IS WEAKNESS.
DADDY!
I KNOW, BABY. IF WE CAN JUST...
THIS MAN BROUGHT CHILDREN INTO THIS WORLD.
WHAT A FOOL.
NO!
I SHOW HIM WHAT STRENGTH IS.
THEY'RE NOT FOR YOU!
SOON I WILL GREET THE DAY WHEN I CRACK THEIR BONES BENEATH MY HEEL.


DON'T LOOK, FAYNE.
RUN! SAVE YOURSELVES!
GEAARRGH!
THEY DO, AND THUS DON'T NOTICE THE SHORT WORK I MAKE OF THE BEAST THAT DREW MY BLOOD.
SO BY THE TIME I CATCH UP...
YOU'RE ALIVE!
...THEY ARE EATING OUT OF THE PALM OF MY HAND.
UNTIL THE WOMAN ARRIVES.
WHO THE HELL IS THIS?
WE'D BE DEAD IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE A NOVA AGAIN.
I KNOW SHE WON'T BE TAKEN IN BY KIND WORDS AND A FEW GALLANT GESTURES.
THANK THE ALMIGHTY THAT YOU SURVIVED WHERE YOUR CORPS PERISHED.
DON'T MAKE ME ASK YOU AGAIN.
I AM THANOS, THE LAST TITAN. LIKE YOU, THE BUGS HAVE TAKEN EVERYTHING FROM ME.
HER TRUST WILL COST ME MUCH MORE.
THAT'S A NOVA PULSE CANNON.
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

FIGHTING ALONGSIDE ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR KIND. COMMANDER ALEXANDER.
YOU KNEW JESSE?
AND SAM. THE BUGS GOT THEM BOTH. BUT NOT BEFORE THEY WERE ABLE TO SLIP ME...
IF YOU HAND THAT OVER, YOU CAN COME WITH US.
YOU MAY TAKE IT. I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.
...THIS
THE TIME STONE.
PERHAPS YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT?
HAVING SLAYED A PLATOON OF NOVAS TO GET THIS, IT PAINS ME TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP.
SOMEONE USED THE BUG ATTACK AS A COVER TO STEAL THE STONE.
I KEEP MY HANDS BY MY SIDE.
DO YOU THINK ZIGZAG COULD GET A SCENT?
GOOD THINKING, ANWEN.
IT HELPS ME FIGHT THE URGE TO GRAB THEM AND TWIST THEIR HEADS OFF THEIR NECKS...
TELL ME, DO YOU HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE WIELDING THE MIND STONE?

"I BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND THE OTHERS. AND DO MUCH MORE."
I WAS BORN IN THIS REGION. DID YOU KNOW THAT?
DIDN'T ALWAYS USED TO BE THIS AWFUL.
SIT DOWN AND STAY AT YOUR POST.
OH, COME ON, GAMORA. THEY NEVER COME UP THIS HIGH.
THE RADAR WOULD DISAGREE. THERE'S A SWARM TWO MILES FROM US AND GAINING.
IS IT A BIG SWARM?
EVEN A SMALL BUG SWARM IS DANGEROUS, QUILL.
NOT WHEN YOU'VE JUST PILLAGED A NOVA BASE.
CHECK OUT THIS JETPACK. YEAH, A JETPACK.
FITS IN THIS LITTLE DOOHICKEY.

I FOUND A GRAVIMETRIC CANNON, E.M.P. CANNONS, AN ANTI-E.M.P. EMITTER IN CASE I ACCIDENTALLY SET OFF THE E.M.P. CANNON AND WE START TO PLUMMET TO OUR DEATHS.
DID YOU GET ANY NOVA STARS?
IF I DID WOULD I BE TALKING THIS MUCH ABOUT E.M.P.S?
BUT DON'T FORGET THIS GEM THINGY.
WHAT GOOD ARE GEMS WHEN THERE'S NO ECONOMY, QUILL? WEAPONS ARE THE ONLY CURRENCY. YOU KNOW THIS.
TRUST ME, THIS THING IS POWERFUL.
OR I WOULDN'T HAVE PUT IT IN THIS CONTAINMENT TUBE. DUH.
FOR ALL I KNOW IF I TOUCH IT WRONG IT BLOWS THE WHOLE SHIP UP...
BA
AH! I DIDN'T DO THAT!
IT'S THE BUGS.
I DON'T THINK SO.
OH, NO. I THOUGHT THEY WERE ALL DEAD.
YOU ALL READY FOR SOME MORE COMBAT TRAINING?
THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THERE. NO WAY WE'RE SHOOTING PEOPLE.

TAKE THE WHEEL. I'LL RETURN FIRE.
FWOOM
FWOOM FWOOM
AWASH
AWASH
AWASH
ANWEN, SLOW DOWN!
YEAH, ANWEN, SLOW--
AAAGGH!
FAYNE!
MOMMY! HELP!
USE YOUR PULSE CANNON, HONEY--
WORRY NOT, LITTLE ONE.
OOF!
DON'T SHOOT AT MY SISTER!
KYARRNCH

THEY'RE TAKING US APART!
NOT FOR LONG, THEY WON'T SEE THIS COMING!
YEAH, WE WILL. LAND THE PLANE...
...OR I'LL LAND IT FOR YOU.
VERY WELL, NOVA CORPS. WE AGREED TO THIS PARLEY. WHAT'S YOUR OFFER?
RETURN THE STONE YOU STOLE.
NOT HEARING WHAT'S IN IT FOR US.
OH, SORRY.
YOU WOULD GET TO LIVE.
I'M NOT SURE THAT'S SUCH A WONDERFUL REWARD GIVEN THIS WORLD WE'RE LIVING IN.
LET'S GO, QUILL. I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THAT TITAN.
LISTEN, BY USING ALL THE STONES IN CONCERT, WE MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE XANDAR FROM THE WAVE.
OR YOU CAN DIE TRYING LIKE EVERY OTHER NOVA THAT'S EVER TRIED TO SAVE THIS CURSED PATCH OF LAND.
I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU YOUR BUSINESS, BUT THE SMART PLAY IS TO TRY AND SNEAK PAST THE WAVE AND SEE WHAT LIES BEYOND.
BE HONEST: HOW MANY NOVA STARS IS THIS ROCK WORTH TO YOU?
THREE.
ARE YOU *CRAZY?* I WAS THINKING *THREE HUNDRED.*
WE CAN START A BIDDING WAR BETWEEN THE COLLECTOR AND THE GAME-MASTER.

I HAVE THREE.
THEY'RE YOURS IF YOU WANT THEM. THEY'LL KEEP YOU SAFER THAN A ROCK YOU'RE AFRAID TO TOUCH.
DEAL. BUT ONLY BECAUSE THERE'S A SWARM HEADED OUR WAY.
THEN WE'RE DONE HERE.
HA! WHAT A BUNCH OF RUBES.
HANG ON, QUILL.
GAMORA, I'M REALLY NOT UP FOR TAKING ON A BUNCH OF KIDS AND AND OLD MAN IN A DOUBLE-CROSS TODAY. I HAVE A HEADACHE.
IF YOUR GOAL IS TO ERADICATE THE BUGS, THEN WE'RE GOING TO HELP.
WAIT, EVERYBODY'S DEAD-- WHO'S GOING TO PAY US FOR THAT?
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT AND RETREAT ANYMORE. I WANT TO FIGHT AND WIN.
THEY'RE THIEVES. WE CANNOT TRUST THEM.
I DON'T TRUST YOU, TITAN. YET, HERE WE ALL ARE.

WELL, NOW THAT WE'RE PARTNERS IN SOME SCHEME TO SCORCH THIS PLACE, MAYBE NOW'S A GOOD TIME TO SHOW US HOW THAT SHINY GLOVE OF YOURS WORKS.
WE GOT AN ENTIRE HIVE ON OUR CASE.
WATCH THIS.
THEY STOPPED MOVING.
THEY'RE FROZEN IN TIME.
OKAY, NICE ESCAPE ACT, BUT LET'S DESTROY THEM.
TOO DANGEROUS TO TRY THAT INSIDE THIS PLANE. I MIGHT LOSE FOCUS AND DESTROY YOU ALL.
BESIDES, I NEED TO USE THE MIND STONE TO TRACK THE REST.

:GASP: WHO THE HELL WAS THAT?
YOU OKAY, MOM? YOU WERE MUMBLING AND YOU LOOKED...ASLEEP.
I SAW A MAN... HE HAS A STONE.
YOU THINK HE'LL GIVE IT TO US TO HELP THE CAUSE?
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY THE VIBE I GOT, NO.
I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE STONES. WHICH ONE DID I FIND?

THE MIND STONE. IT'S ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL.
IS IT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO...
...COULD IT BRING SOMEONE BACK FROM THE DEAD?
HEY, EVE. COME UP TO THE FLIGHT DECK.
THAT'S A SWEET THOUGHT, BUT TRYING TO BRING GRAMPS BACK IS TOO DANGEROUS, AND TOO DIFFICULT.
DISAPPOINTING, ISN'T IT?
I KNOW I SUCK AT DRAWING.
I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.
WHAT?
FAMILY IS WEAKNESS.
YOU WERE TOO WEAK TO SAVE YOUR GRANDFATHER.
AND NOW YOU GROW WEAKER AS YOU MOURN HIM.
I SURVIVED BECAUSE-- I AM ALONE.
YOU SURVIVED BECAUSE I TOOK PITY ON YOUR FAMILY.
NOW I WORRY THAT I'VE INFECTED MYSELF.
THIS WORLD IS WITHOUT MERCY, ANWEN.
I WONDER...

ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THE HARD CHOICES?
ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO WALK THIS EARTH ALONE?
THIS FEELS RIGHT. SOMEONE HAS A STONE HERE.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? THIS IS A DEAD ZONE!
DOWN, QUILL.
FINE.
BE READY.
THERE'S NOBODY HERE, MOMMA.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I CAN FEEL HIS THOUGHTS.
HIDING IN THE TREES.
I'M TAKING THE GIRLS BACK TO THE SHIP.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
QUIET.
EVE'S RIGHT.
I SEE YOU!
CAREFUL, GAMORA!

STAY BACK, I GOT HIM!
GET OUT OF THE TREE!
THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE TREE?!
GAMORA, IT MEANS US NO HARM!
!
EYES?!
EYES... EYE.
GIVE UP THE ROCK, OR I'LL SPLIT YOU IN HALF!
STAND DOWN.
IT MEANS US NO HARM.
IT MAY NOT EVEN KNOW IT HAS A STONE INSIDE IT.
LET US SPLINTER THE TREE, FIND THE STONE AND BE ON OUR WAY.

HMM, MIGHT BE BURIED UNDER ITS BARK.
HMMM.
YOU THINK IT GREW OVER THE STONE?
GREW?
MUST BE AT THE ROOTS.
ROOT?
GREAT. NOW WHAT?
WE NEED THAT STONE.
HEY, THAT THING IS ALIVE.
UH... YOU SURE THAT TREE-THING ISN'T DANGEROUS?
I'M ONLY SURE THE STONE IS INSIDE HIM.
HE'S LONELY IN THIS DEAD FOREST.
YOU KEEP CALLING IT "HIM." LET'S JUST CUT IT--
LET'S JUST FIGURE SOMETHING OUT THAT ISN'T MURDER.
WHAT THE HELL?
EYE HMMM GREW ROOT.
WHOA!
DID HE JUST SAY "I AM GROOT"?

I CANNOT HIDE MY DISGUST FOR ANOTHER MOMENT.
MY PRIZE IS ON THE ARM OF THAT WOMAN.
ALMOST COMPLETE.
SHE BARKS ORDERS, THINKING I AM ONE TO SUFFER COMMANDS.
THINKING SHE CAN WIELD THE POWER.
AND THE TREE... WON'T SHUT UP.
I AM GROOT.
I WILL KILL IT FIRST.
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE...
...WE'RE CLOSE TO THE NEXT STONE. WE NEED TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING.
THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO BE READY FOR IS DEATH.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT: